

III. Resolutions of the 42nd Session, Panaji (Goa), 5—7 January, 1973

Resolution IV: The Commission recommends that suitable notice be taken by the Government of India and the State Governments, of the meritorious services of those who had carefully preserved private records, either by preserving those records themselves or by depositing them for safe custody in a properly organised Records Repository or a suitable Learned Institution. •

National Archives of India: The resolution was accepted by the Government of India in the Ministry of Home Affairs. National Archives of India has forwarded the names of those persons and institutions, recommended by State Governments, who have carefully preserved their private records for issuing necessary certificates in recognition of their services. The resolution is being processed with the Ministry of Education, Social Welfare and Culture to work out **modus operandi** for issuing such certificates.

Resolution VI: Resolved that keeping in view the urgency of salvaging and preserving the extremely valuable Government records lying in various offices in the District Headquarters and in the various field offices of the Central and State Governments, the Central and State Governments be strongly urged to open maximum number of intermediate Record Centres on priority basis, within their respective areas, to collect, list and preserve these records. These Record Centres should be fully manned with qualified staff and equipped with repair and reprographic facilities. The facilities should be available, not only for the Government records but should also be extended to the libraries, learned institutions and individual scholars who have valuable private records, manuscripts etc., in their possession.

Andhra Pradesh: The State Archives is making necessary provision in the Plan Budget for the purchase of modern equipment and materials for equipping the Regional Archives with repair and reprographic facilities and extending them to private individuals and institutions.

Orissa: The resolution is under active consideration of the Government.

Sikkim: As the State Archives has been only recently started and is being organised, the resolution is still under consideration of the Government.

Resolution VII: Resolved that the Central and State Governments may be requested to throw open records relating to persons and parties involved in the political movements during pre-Independence days which were in the custody of the Central Intelligence Bureau, the State Police Departments and Departments of Criminal Investigation for the use of research scholars.

Assam: The resolution has been noted for future guidance.

Kerala: The department so far has not acquired any sizable collection of such records but whenever such records come to our custody, the recommendation set forth in the resolution will be complied with.

Karnataka: Action is being taken to address the departments concerned for transfer of these papers and further action will be taken after they have been transferred.

Haryana: The State Government have no objection to declare open records upto 1945 to bonafide research scholars.

Sikkim: As the State Archives has been only recently started and is being organised, the resolution is still under consideration of the Government.

Resolution IX: Resolved that this body requests the State Governments to enact a law to bring under overall supervision of the State Archival Services records preserved by private bodies like **maths**, temples, churches, societies, libraries, museums, universities and learned institutions in their respective States.

Kerala: The Department considers that the enactment of law on the subject is premature.

Rajasthan: The resolution is still under consideration of the Government.

Orissa: The resolution is under active consideration of the Government.

Madhya Pradesh: Action is being taken on the resolution and decision would be communicated in due course.

Goa: The resolution will be taken up with the Government in due course.

Pondicherry : National Archives of India is shortly to assume the administrative control of the Archives. The local administration is presently engaged in working out the details of a plan for setting up a separate Archives to preserve all post-merger records. In these circumstances it has not been possible to take up any work regarding implementation of the resolution.

Andhra Pradesh: The State Government is of the view that a uniform law embodying general principles enacted by the Government of India will be more effective than the separate laws enacted by the State Governments.

Karnataka: In the absence of a draft bill both at the Centre and States the resolution can not be implemented.

Gujarat: Some control over the management and maintenance of records created by private bodies in the State will be exercised. In view of the greater responsibilities and additional financial commitments, the State Government does not consider it feasible at present to enact a law in question. The State Government is of the opinion that a uniform law in this respect embodying the general principles enacted by the Government of India will be more effective than separate laws enacted by different State Governments.

Haryana: The resolution is under consideration of the Government.

Sikkim: As the State Archives has recently been set up and is being organized, the resolution is still under consideration of the Government.

Assam: This question may conveniently be taken up after setting up of the State Archives.

Resolution XI: Resolved that all State Governments should evolve as early as possible a well articulated retirement policy for their records and prepare retention schedules for records at all levels in line with the rules of the Central Government.

Kerala: The Manual is nearing completion and on its completion, policy towards the preparation of retention schedule would be evolved.

Rajasthan: The resolution is under consideration of the Government.

Goa: The retention schedule of the Manual of Office Procedure Government of India, is being followed.

Sikkim: As the State Archives has been recently set up and is being organized, the resolution is still under Government's consideration.

Jammu and Kashmir: The State Government has been approached in this behalf.

West Bengal: The matter is under consideration of the Government and the decision will be communicated in due course.

Assam: The question is being examined though there are certain rules in this regard for this Record Office.

Punjab: The State Government has already constituted a working group of officers for this purpose. A report thereof is still awaited.

Resolution XII: The Commission notes with regret that, in spite of its earlier recommendations, vide Resolution No. IV of its 31st Session held in 1955 and Resolution 3(a) of the 36th Session held in 1961, the Government of India had not so far made arrangements for the manufacture of the Standard Quality Paper recommended by the Indian Standards Institution in consultation with the National Archives of India, with the result that the Union and State Governments, as well as others, were obliged to use low quality paper for their permanent records. The Commission, therefore, strongly recommends that urgent measures be adopted either for manufacturing this paper in India, or for importing it from abroad, as in the long run the use of quality paper for permanent records would not only prove more economical, but is absolutely essential keeping in view the importance of these records for the future generations.

National Archives of India: M/s Ballarpur Paper Industries had informed that "Sunlit Twist Warp Bond" paper which met the requirements of a Standard Quality Paper for its use in permanent records may cost Rs. 18 to Rs. 20 per Kg. The Controller of Stationary, Government of India, Calcutta has been approached to assess the total requirement for such paper and to examine the financial implications involved in its procurement. The matter is under consideration.

Resolution XIII: Resolved that appropriate authorities be moved to direct their attention to the archives of the Municipal Corporations and

other Local Bodies, who should be asked to ensure their preservation in properly organised Record Rooms to be looked after by suitable staff. Further resolved that these records be regularly appraised and proper lists or catalogues be prepared of the permanent records, which should be made available for research to bonafied scholars.

Andhra Pradesh: The matter has been taken up with the Local Administration and Social Welfare Department of this Government for necessary action.

Rajasthan: The resolution is under consideration of the Government.

Jammu and Kashmir: The matter has been referred to the authorities concerned.

Sikkim: As the State Archives has been recently set up and is being organised, the resolution is still under consideration of the Government.

Assam: The concerned Departments of the Government are being requested to take necessary steps in this regard.

Madhya Pradesh: Action on the resolution is being taken and decision would be communicated in due course.

Kerala: The concerned authorities have been requested to take necessary action.

Goa: The Department has noted the resolution for further necessary action.

IV. Resolutions of the 43rd Session held at Lucknow, 28-29 January, 1975

Resolution II: The Commission resolves that the Government of India be requested to treat the National Archives of India Annexe as a functional building and to give top priority to its construction, which is absolutely essential for the National Archives of India to effectively discharge its responsibilities, and particularly to implement the Archival Policy Resolution which requires it to accept custody of billions of the non-current public records lying scattered and neglected in the various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India.

National Archives of India: The Government of India have since conveyed the administrative approval and expenditure sanction amounting to Rs. 2.2 crores for the construction of Phase I of the proposed annexe. The work of construction has been entrusted to Civil Public Works Department, New Delhi.

Resolution III: The Commission is greatly perturbed over the reported large scale destruction of old public records in several States, notwithstanding the repeated recommendations of the Commission (*Vide* Resolution No. II of 1925, Resolution No. VII of 1942, Resolution No. V of 1943, Resolution VI of 1951) and resolves that a Sub-Committee consisting of five Members of the Commission be constituted to investigate and report to the Standing Committee, within six months, on the following:

- (a) the extent to which the above resolutions are being implemented;
- (b) the period and the nature of records destroyed during the last two years;